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Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, February 22, 1995)

The Senate met at 9 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Our prayer will be offered by a guest Chaplain, Father Paul Lavin, of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Washington, DC.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Reverend Paul Lavin, offered the following prayer:

In Psalm 89 we read:

May the goodness of the Lord be upon us, and give success to the work of our hands.

Let us pray:

God our Father, You have placed all the powers of nature under the control of the human family and the work we do.

May the men and women of the U.S. Senate and their staffs work to support one another and our fellow citizens to bring Your spirit to all our efforts, and may we work with our brothers and sisters at our common task of guiding Your creation to the fulfillment to which You have called us.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of House Joint Resolution 1, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 1) proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The Senate resumed consideration of the joint resolution.

Pending:

(1) Feinstein amendment No. 274, in the nature of a substitute.

(2) Feingold amendment No. 291, to provide that receipts and outlays of the Tennessee Valley Authority shall not be counted as receipts or outlays for purposes of this article.

(3) Graham amendment No. 259, to strike the limitation on debt held by the public.

(4) Graham amendment No. 298, to clarify the application of the public debt limit with respect to redemptions from the Social Security Trust Funds.

(5) Kennedy amendment No. 267, to provide that the balanced budget constitutional amendment does not authorize the President to impound lawfully appropriated funds or impose taxes, duties, or fees.

(6) Bumpers modified motion to refer H.J. Res. 1 to the Committee on the Budget with instructions.

(7) Nunn amendment No. 299, to permit waiver of the amendment during an economic emergency.

(8) Nunn amendment No. 300, to limit judicial review.

(9) Levin amendment No. 273, to require Congress to pass legislation specifying the means for implementing and enforcing a balanced budget before the balanced budget amendment is submitted to the States for ratification.

(10) Levin amendment No. 310, to provide that the Vice President of the United States shall be able to cast the deciding vote in the Senate if the whole number of the Senate be equally divided.

(11) Levin amendment No. 311, to provide that the Vice President of the United States shall not be able to cast the deciding vote in the Senate if the whole number of the Senate be equally divided.

(12) Pryor amendment No. 307, to give the people of each State, through their State representatives, the right to tell Congress how they would cut spending in their State in order to balance the budget.

(13) Byrd amendment No. 252, to permit outlays to exceed receipts by a majority vote.

(14) Byrd amendment No. 254, to establish that the limit on the public debt shall not be increased unless Congress provides by law for such an increase.

(15) Byrd amendment No. 255, to permit the President to submit an alternative budget.

(16) Byrd amendment No. 253, to permit a bill to increase revenue to become law by majority vote.

(17) Byrd amendment No. 258, to strike any reliance on estimates.

(18) Kerry motion to commit H.J. Res. 1 to the Committee on the Budget.

(19) Hatch (for Dole) motion to recommit H.J. Res. 1 to the Committee on the Budget with instructions.

(20) Hatch (for Dole) motion to recommit H.J. Res. 1 to the Committee on the Budget with instructions.

(21) Hatch (for Dole) motion to commit H.J. Res. 1 to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions.

(22) Hatch (for Dole) motion to commit H.J. Res. 1 to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions.

RECOGNITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I yield 10 minutes to the distinguished Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD]. (Mr. KYL assumed the chair.)

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Chair and I thank the minority leader. Mr. President, today is an important day in the life of our Nation. Today we consider a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States. We do not lightly consider amendments to the Constitution because that document has served as the framework that has made this the greatest Nation in human history.

Mr. President, we are here because this Nation faces a debt threat. I have brought with me several charts to try to illustrate the challenge that we face. This first chart shows what has happened to the gross debt in our country from 1940 to 1999. One can see that back in 1940 the debt of the country exploded during World War II, and then

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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